

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 /046 W
----- 073347

R 271030Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6873

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 147

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2571

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, GE, GW

SUBJECT: SNAG IN FRG-BDG RELATIONS

1. FRG AMBASSADOR RITTER TELLS ME THAT AN UNEXPECTED IRRITANT HAS DEVELOPED IN FRG-BDG RELATIONS. IT SEEMS THAT FRG HAS CONVENTIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH WHICH INCLUDES USUAL "BERLIN CLAUSE", PROVIDING THAT THE AGREEMENT ALSO APPLIES TO LAND BERLIN. IN EARLY MAY, ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR RITTER, BDG UNEXPECTEDLY REQUESTED MODIFICATION OF THIS CLAUSE, PROPOSING NEW LANGUAGE PATTERNED AFTER LANGUAGE WHICH USSR EARLIER NEGOTIATED WITH FRG IN WHAT RITTER TELLS ME IS SOLE EXCEPTION TO STANDARDIZED BERLIN CLAUSE FRG HAS NEGOTIATED WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

2. AMBASSADOR RITTER HAS OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN (WHO IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO DACCA MAY 30 AFTER LONG ABSENCE) ON MAY 31 AND WILL TRY TO HAVE BDG POSITION REVERSED, EMPHASIZING STRONG POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FRG ATTACHES TO PRESENT BERLIN CLAUSE. RITTER PLANS TO INDICATE THAT UNLESS
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ISSUE IS RESOLVED, IT MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON FRG'S

RECORD OF RESPONSIVENESS TO REQUESTS FOR SPEEDY ACTION
ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION MATTERS.

3. NOTING THAT THIS IS A TRANSPARENT USE OF BANGLADESH
AS A TOOL TO SERVE SOVIET POLITICAL INTERESTS, AMBASSADOR
RITTER IS AMAZED THAT BDG HAS CHOSEN PRECISELY THE PERIOD
IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE BANGLADESH AID GROUP MEETING IN
PARIS TO RAISE THIS SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE. IT MAY
BE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BACK OFF BUT, IF HE
DOES NOT, FRG REPRESENTATIVES AT THE PARIS TALKS MAY NOT
BE IN A VERY FORTHCOMING MOOD. RITTER HAS ALREADY
BOYCOTTED A MEETING HERE LAST WEEK HELD BY PLANNING
COMMISSION SECRETARY SYEDUZZAMAN TO BRIEF AID GROUP HEADS
OF MISSION ON THE DEVALUATION PACKAGE AND TO CONVEY
BDG'S PLEA FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE FOR NEXT YEAR.
RITTER WILL LET ME KNOW HOW HE FARES WITH THE
FOREIGN MINISTER AND I WILL REPORT FURTHER AFTER THEIR
MEETING.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA02571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0815
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750514/aaaaampx.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SNAG IN FRG-BDG RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, GC, GE, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006